Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended)   A network system which comprises a server, and a plurality of terminals connected to said server via a network, and is configured to provide a predetermined service to said terminals via said network from said server, wherein,

said server comprises:

request receiving means for receiving a request for the service transmitted by each of said plurality of terminals via said network;

information transmitting means for transmitting information corresponding to [[a]] the service to be provided[[,]] to said each terminal each of which has transmitted the request for the service received by said request receiving means via said network;

incentive offering means, responsive to the reception of said request, for offering a predetermined incentive in regard to use of said predetermined service to only some of said terminals each of to each terminal which has transmitted the request for the service received by said request receiving means;

requests count means for counting the number of said terminals each of which has transmitted the request for the service received by said request receiving means; and

incentive modifying means for modifying a content of the incentive to be offered by said incentive offering means in accordance with the number of said terminals counted by said requests count means,

each of said terminals comprises:

request transmission means for transmitting the request for <u>the</u> service to said server for providing the service via said network; and

information receiving means for receiving the information corresponding to the service to be provided, which is transmitted by said information transmission means via said network.

2. (Currently Amended)   The network system according to claim 1, wherein said server further comprises promotional information transmitting means for transmitting information for promoting the request for <u>the</u> service together with information representing a content of the incentive to be offered to the predetermined number of terminals of said plurality of terminals via said network.

3. (Currently Amended)   A network system which comprises a server, and a plurality of terminals connected to said server via a network, wherein

said server comprises a memory for storing a program, a processor for executing said program, and a first communication device for transmitting/receiving information to/from said plurality of terminals,

receives a request for providing a predetermined service transmitted by each of said plurality of terminals via said network, through said first communication device,

counts the number of said terminals each of which has transmitted the request <u>for the service</u>,

transmits information corresponding to the service to be provided, to the terminals each of which has transmitted the request in response to reception of the request, via said network through said first communication device,

responsive to the reception of said request, offers an incentive ~~in regard to use of said~~ ~~predetermined service to only some of the terminals each of~~ to each terminal which has transmitted the request for the service to said server in return to promote that service, and

modifies a content of the incentive to be offered, in accordance with the counted number of said terminals,

each of said plurality of terminals comprises a memory for storing a program, a processor for executing said program, an output device for outputting information, and a second communication device for transmitting/receiving information to/from said server,

requests said server to provide the service, via said network through said second communication device,

receives the information transmitted by said server in response to the request via said network, through said second communication device, and

outputs the received information through said output device.

4. (Currently Amended)   A network system for providing a predetermined service to ~~persons~~ people via network, comprising:

~~user~~ count means for counting the number of ~~users of~~ people who have used said service via said network;

incentive offering means for offering a predetermined incentive ~~in regard to use of said~~ ~~predetermined service to only some of persons~~ to each of people who has utilized said service provided via network, and

incentive modifying means for modifying a content of the incentive to be offered, in accordance with the number of the users counted by said user count means.

5. (Currently Amended)   The network system according to claim 4 further

comprising usage promotional information supply means for supplying information for

promoting usage of said service to the predetermined number of ~~persons~~ people selected from the

~~persons~~ people who can utilize the service, via said network.

6. (Currently Amended)   An incentive offering method for providing a

predetermined service to users via network, comprising the steps of:

counting the number of the users each of who has utilized said service via said network;

offering an incentive ~~in regard to use of said predetermined service to only some of users~~

~~of the service~~ to each user who has used the service; and

modifying a content of the incentive to be offered, in accordance with the number of the

users counted by said user counting step.

7. (Previously Presented)   The incentive offering method according to claim 6 further

comprising usage promotional information supplying step of supplying information for

promoting usage of said service, to the predetermined number of users selected from the users

who can utilize said service.

8. (Currently Amended)   A server configured to be connected to a plurality of

terminals via a network, and provide a predetermined service on request from each of said

plurality of terminals, comprising:

incentive offering means for offering a predetermined incentive ~~in regard to use of said~~ ~~predetermined service to only some of the terminals each of~~ to each terminal which has requested the service;

request count means for counting the number of the terminals each of which has requested the service; and

incentive modifying means for modifying a content of the incentive to be offered by said incentive offering means in accordance with the number of the terminals which have requested the service.

9. (Previously Presented)   The server according to claim 8, wherein said request count means counts the number of terminals each of which has never requested the service before, when those terminals send the request to the server.

10. (Previously Presented)   The server according to claim 8, wherein said incentive modifying means modifies the content of the incentive when the number of the terminals counted by said request count means reaches a predetermined number.

11. (Previously Presented)   The server according to claim 10 further comprising visible information transmitting means for transmitting information which visibly shows the relationship between the number of the terminals when said incentive modifying means modifies the content of the incentive and the number of the terminals counted by said request count means, to the terminals each of which has requested the service via said network.

12. (Previously Presented)   The server according to claim 8 further comprising promotional information transmitting means for transmitting information prepared for promoting a service request together with information representing the content of the incentive to be offered, to the predetermined number of terminals of said plurality of terminals via said network.

13. (Currently Amended)   The server according to claim 12, wherein said promotional information transmitting means comprises address information storage means for storing address information of ~~said only~~ at least some of said plurality of terminals, and transmits information for promoting the service request in accordance with the address information stored in said address information storage means.

14. (Previously Presented)   The server according to claim 13, wherein said address information storage means stores the address information which is divided into groups in accordance with predetermined standards, and

said promotional information transmission means transmits information for promoting the service request in accordance with the address information belonging to any one of the groups corresponding to a content of the incentive to be offered by said incentive offering means.

15. (Previously Presented)   The server according to claim 12, wherein said promotional information transmitting means comprises address information receiving means which receives address information of other terminals transmitted by the terminal which has requested the service via said network, and transmits the information for promoting the service request in accordance with the address information received by said address information receiving means.

16. (Currently Amended)   A server configured to be connected to a plurality of terminals via a network, which comprises a memory for storing a program, a processor for executing said program, and a communication device for transmitting/receiving information to/from said terminals, wherein said server receives a request for service transmitted by each of said plurality of terminals via said network, through said communication device,

counts the number of terminals each of which has transmitted the request,

transmits information corresponding to a service to be provided to each of the terminal devices which has requested the service, through said communication device in response to receipt of the request, via said network,

modifies a content of an incentive ~~in regard to use of the service to be offered~~ in accordance with the counted number of the terminals, and supplies the incentive to ~~only some of the terminals each of~~ <u>each terminal</u> which has requested the service, through said communication device.

17. (Currently Amended)   A computer readable recording medium storing a program which causes a computer being connected to a plurality of terminals via a network to function as:

incentive offering means for offering a predetermined incentive ~~in regard to use of a predetermined service to only some of said terminals each of~~ <u>to each terminal</u> which has requested the service;

request count means for counting the number of said terminals each of which has requested the service; and

incentive modifying means for modifying a content of the incentive to be offered by said incentive offering means, in accordance with the number of said terminals counted by said request count means.

18. (Currently Amended)   The computer readable recording medium according to claim 17, wherein said program further causes said computer to function as promotional information transmitting means for transmitting information for promoting the request for the service together with information representing the content of the incentive to be offered, to the predetermined number of terminals of said plurality of terminals via said network.

19. (Currently Amended)   A program data signal embedded in a carrier wave signal to be transferred via a communication path, said program data signal causing a computer being connected to a plurality of terminals via a network to function as:

incentive offering means for offering a predetermined incentive in regard to use of a predetermined service to only some of said terminals each of to each terminal which has requested the service;

request count means for counting the number of said terminals each of which has requested the service; and

incentive modifying means for modifying a content of the incentive to be offered by said incentive offering means, in accordance with the number of said terminals counted by said request count means.

20. (Currently Amended) The program data signal according to claim 19, which causes said computer to function as promotional information transmitting means for transmitting information for promoting the request for the service together with information representing the content of the incentive to be offered, to the predetermined number of terminals of said plurality of terminals via said network.